

Appl. No. 09/514,940
Amdt. dated January 14, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 15, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 28-32 remain in this application. Claims 23-27 have been canceled by this amendment. Claims 1-22 were previously canceled. New claims 28-32 have been added and are the only claims pending in the application. Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application, in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

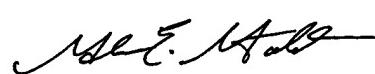
On December 19, 2003, Applicant's attorney participated in a telephonic interview with Examiner Poinvil to discuss the pending Final Office Action of August 15, 2003. Applicant's attorney advised the Examiner that Applicant would be submitting an amendment to the claims in conjunction with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Furthermore, Applicant's attorney requested, and the Examiner agreed, that a telephone interview be granted prior to an examination on the merits. Accordingly, Applicant hereby requests that the Examiner telephone the undersigned to schedule a telephone interview to discuss the foregoing amendments to the claims, prior to rendering any decision with respect to the allowability of the claims.

Claims 23-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wallman (US 6,601,044). Claims 23-27 have been canceled by this amendment and are no longer pending in the application.

Applicant submits that pending claims 28-32 are patentable over all of the prior art of record, and respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawings, then it is respectfully asked that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing the case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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By 
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